

VZCZCXRO0607
OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDH RUEHDIR RUEHKUK RUEHROV
DE RUEHRH #0799 1671107
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 161107Z JUN 09 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0995
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHDH/AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE 0107
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH IMMEDIATE 0185

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIYADH 000799

SIPDIS

FOR DRL-IRF OFFICER ZAIBACK AND NEA/ARP HARRIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/14/2019
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [SA](#) [SOCI](#) [KIRF](#)
SUBJECT: SAUDI RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: TAIF CHRISTIANS UNHINDERED

REF: A. RIYADH 1162
[B](#). RIYADH 1211
[C](#). JEDDAH 1620

Classified By:
CDA Ambassador Richard Erdman for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) TAIF CHRISTIANS FREE TO WORSHIP

In two separate meetings on June 9 and 14, Embassy Indian Christian contacts confirmed that the 14 Taif Christians threatened with deportation in July/August 2008 have been left alone by the Saudi government (Reftel A, B and C). Advised by fellow Christians to take extra precautions in order to maintain a low-profile, the Taif Christians took steps including changing residences so as to not arouse suspicion among neighbors and local authorities as to why they were never deported. The Taif Christians continue to worship in private and conduct small-scale, weekly prayer services at various private residences, and they have faced no further restrictions on private worship.
ERDMAN